APPLE COMICS

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WARP GRAPHICS

Myth Conceptions™

No. 1
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by Robert Asprin and Ken & Beth Mitchroney

The Further Myth ADVENTURES of Aahz and Skeeve!

Our Story So Far . . .

In the dimension of Klaah, young Skeeve became apprentice to the wizard Garkin. One day, Garkin transported a fellow magician from the dimension of Perv, the "demon" Aahz, to Klaah. As a prank, Garkin put a spell on Aahz that removed his powers. But before Garkin could remove the spell, he was murdered.

As Skeeve was now without a teacher and Aahz was now without his powers (even though he retained all his knowledge of magik), they resolved that Skeeve would become Aahz's apprentice and together they would track down Isstvan, the magician behind Garkin's murder.

Along the way they enlisted the aid of the dull-witted demon hunter, Quigley, and visited Deva, site of an interdimensional bazaar, where they met Tananda, the beautiful assassin/magician. It was also at Deva that Skeeve adopted his pet dragon, Gleep (or was it the other way around?).

After routing Isstvan and bidding their comrades farewell, Aahz and Skeeve took over the maniac magician's former base of operations, an old country inn, to continue Skeeve's education. But Aahz's greed got in the way and after two successive get-rich-quick schemes backfired, they found themselves poorer than ever, with the inn on the verge of bankruptcy.

(These events were recounted in *Mythadventures* #1-12.)

Publisher's note: ***Myth Conceptions*** is based on the novel of the same name by Bob Asprin, without whose kind permission this comic book would not be possible. Our thanks to Bob, editor Richard Pini, and to all the readers who have enjoyed and supported the *Myth* comic book series since its inception. If you're joining us for the first time this issue, welcome — and brace yourself for the most fun you've had reading a comic book in a long time!

Now let's all extend a big welcome to the newest, nuttiest artist to illustrate the wacky myth-adventures of Aahz and Skeeve — Ken Mitchroney. Ken brings along with him the talents of his wife, scripter Beth Mitchroney (an established wordsmith in her own right), co-inker Ingrid Neilson, and ace letterer Thomas Scott. Ken is also the creator/artist of *Space Ark*, the loony funny-animal comic book that mixes space opera, the Marx Brothers, Chuck Jones, and more puns-per-panel than an innocent human being should have to endure.

Our editor, Richard Pini, is, of course, the co-creator (along with his wife and partner, Wendy Pini) of Elfquest.

Myth Conceptions (the novel) is part of the ongoing "Myth" series available at better bookstores everywhere. *Space Ark* and *Elfquest: Siege at Blue Mountain* should be on sale at your favorite comic book shop. Ask for all three — and don't take no for an answer!

Subscriptions: You can, of course, subscribe to this or any other Apple Comics title — see the full details on page 31. If you were already a subscriber to *Mythadventures*, you haven't lost a thing: you'll be receiving as many issues of *Myth Conceptions* as you had issues remaining on your original subscription.

Write! We hope you'll write and let us know how you enjoyed this issue. We read every letter and forward copies to each creator involved. The best letters, of course, will be printed in these very pages. The address is: Mythprints, PO Box 787, Bethel CT 06801.

Myth Conceptions™

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OF ALL THE VARIOUS UNPLEASANT WAYS TO BE AROUSED FROM A SOUND SLEEP, ONE OF THE WORST IS THE NOISE OF A DRAGON AND UNICORN PLAYING TAG.

BAMMO!

PROPERTY OF THE HOTEL DEVA

Myth Conceptions

ADAPTED, PENCILLED, AND INKED BY KEN AND BETH MITCHRONEY

INGRID NEILSON
CO-INKER

THOMAS SCOTT
LETTERER

RICHARD PINI
EDITOR

CLATTER

BANG

TROMP

TROMP

TROMP

THUD

BUTTERCUP! GLEEP! STOP IT THIS IN--

--STANT.

HEY! LOOK OUT!

GLEEP!

SWOOSH

THUD

OH YEAH ?

FA-ZING

VLORP!

GLEEP?

?

FWUMP!

IF YOU'RE *QUITE* SURE YOU'RE MAKING ENOUGH NOISE...

GEE, AAHZ, YOU'RE ALWAYS TELLING ME IF I CAN'T SLEEP THROUGH ANYTHING, I'M NOT REALLY TIRED.

?

KID, TELL ME YOU'RE PRACTICING. TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T REALLY SCROUNGED UP ANOTHER STUPID DRAGON TO MAKE OUR LIVES MISERABLE!

I'M PRACTICING!

REALLY, AAHZ, WHERE WOULD I FIND ANOTHER DRAGON IN THIS DIMENSION?

IF THERE WAS ONE TO BE FOUND HERE ON *KLAH*, YOU'D FIND IT. AS I RECALL, YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH TROUBLE FINDING THIS ONE THE FIRST TIME I TURNED MY BACK ON YOU.

APPRENTICES!

GLEEP!

Poof!

SLAM

IF *I* RECALL, THAT WAS AT THE BAZAAR ON *DEVA*. I COULDN'T GET ANOTHER DRAGON HERE BECAUSE YOU WON'T TEACH ME HOW TO TRAVEL THROUGH DIMENSIONS.

GET OFF MY CASE, KID! WE'VE BEEN OVER IT A THOUSAND TIMES. DIMENSION TRAVELING IS DANGEROUS! LOOK AT ME...

... STRANDED WITHOUT MY POWERS IN A BACK-ASSWARD DIMENSION LIKE *KLAH*, WHERE THE LIFE-STYLE IS BARBARIC AND THE FOOD IS DISGUSTING!

YOU LOST YOUR POWERS BECAUSE GARKIN LACED HIS SPECIAL EFFECTS CAULDRON WITH THAT JOKE POWDER AND THEN GOT KILLED BEFORE HE COULD GIVE YOU THE ANTIDOTE.

WATCH OUT HOW YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR OLD TEACHER!

THE OLD SLIME-MONGER WAS INCLINED TO GET CARRIED AWAY WITH PRACTICAL JOKES ONCE IN A WHILE, TRUE.

BUT HE WAS A MASTER MAGICIAN... AND A FRIEND OF MINE.

IF HE WASN'T, I WOULDN'T HAVE SADDLED MYSELF WITH HIS MOUTHY APPRENTICE!

I'M SORRY AAHZ. IT'S JUST THAT I--

LOOK, KID, IF I HAD MY POWERS, WHICH I DON'T, AND IF YOU WERE READY TO LEARN DIMENSIONAL HOPPING -- WHICH YOU AREN'T, WE COULD GIVE IT A TRY.

THEN, IF YOU MISCALCULATED AND DUMPED US INTO THE WRONG DIMENSION, I COULD GET OUR TAILS OUT BEFORE ANYTHING BAD HAPPENED.

AS THINGS STAND, TRYING TO TEACH YOU DIMENSION HOPPING WOULD BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN PLAYING *RUSSIAN ROULETTE!*

WHAT'S A RUSSIAN?

@☠#★!!!

WHAT THE...!!

BAM

WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TEACH YOUR STUPID DRAGON TO PLAY ON THE *OTHER SIDE* OF THE ROAD?!

I'M WORKING ON IT, AAHZ REMEMBER, IT TOOK ME ALMOST A WHOLE YEAR TO *HOUSEBREAK* HIM!

DON'T REMIND ME. IF I HAD MY WAY, WE'D--

TWANG

YOU'D BETTER DISGUISE THAT DRAGON, KID, AND GET READY TO DO YOUR *"DUBIOUS CHARACTER"* BIT...

...WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A VISITOR!

HOW'S *THAT*, AAHZ?

KID, THAT DISGUISE COULD TURN ME OFF OF SOLID FOOD FOR WEEKS! NOW, GO SEE WHAT HE WANTS!

AHEM!

DOES THE NOBLE SAHR REQUIRE A ROOM?

I COME SEEKING THE ONE KNOWN AS *SKEEVE THE MAGICIAN.*

THAT'S ME!

UH... THAT'S ME *MASTER!* YOU WAIT... I FETCH!

WHAT IS IT?

HE'S... HE WANTS TO TALK TO SKEEVE ...TO ME!

SO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE? GO OUTSIDE AND TALK TO THE MAN!

LOOKING LIKE THIS?

WHO *CARES* WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE?

C'MON KID, THE MAN'S A TOTAL STRANGER!

I CARE! THE MAN ASKED FOR SKEEVE THE MAGICIAN, AND I THINK--

HE *WHAT?*

HE ASKED FOR "*SKEEVE THE MAGICIAN.*"

HE LOOKS LIKE A SOLDIER TO ME.

HE LOOKS *SCARED!* MAYBE YOU SHOULD TONE DOWN YOUR DISGUISE A BIT NEXT TIME.

DO YOU THINK HE'S A *DEMON-HUNTER?*

IF HE WANTS A MAGICIAN, WE'LL GIVE HIM A MAGICIAN!

QUICK, KID, SLAP THE *GARKIN* DISGUISE ON ME!*

* GARKIN WAS SKEEVE'S ORIGINAL MAGIK TEACHER-- SEE *MYTHADVENTURES* #1.

ZLORT

GOOD ENOUGH, KID. NOW, FOLLOW CLOSE AND LET ME DO THE TALKING!

LIKE *THIS?*

RELAX, KID. FOR THIS CONVERSATION, I'M YOU. *UNDERSTAND?*

WHO SEEKS AN AUDIENCE WITH THE GREAT SKEEVE?

I COME AS AN EMISSARY FROM HIS MOST NOBLE MAJESTY, *RODRICK THE FIFTH,* KING OF POSSILTUM, WHO--

WHAT'S *POSSILTUM?*

I BEG YOUR PARDON?

POSSILTUM, WHERE IS IT?

OH! IT'S THE KINGDOM JUST EAST OF HERE... OTHER SIDE OF THE *EMBER RIVER*... YOU CAN'T MISS IT.

OKAY, GO ON.

...

"KING OF POSSILTUM..."

OH, YES!

YERK!

...KING OF POSSILTUM, WHO SENDS HIS RESPECTS AND GREETINGS TO THE ONE KNOWN AS *SKEEVE THE MAGICIAN!*

HIS MAJESTY EXTENDS AN INVITATION TO SKEEVE THE MAGICIAN TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT OF POSSILTUM THAT HE MIGHT BE REVIEWED FOR HIS SUITABILITY FOR THE POSITION OF COURT MAGICIAN.

I DON'T REALLY FEEL QUALIFIED TO PASS JUDGMENT ON THE KING'S SUITABILITY AS COURT MAGICIAN. ISN'T HE CONTENT JUST TO BE KING?

NO, NO! THE KING WANTS TO REVIEW *YOUR* SUITABILITY!

OH! THAT'S A DIFFERENT MATTER ENTIRELY. WELL, WELL, AN INVITATION FROM... WHO WAS IT AGAIN?

RODRICK THE FIFTH!

SMACK!

WELL, I'VE NEVER BEEN ONE TO REFUGE A *FIFTH!*

YOU MAY TELL HIS MAJESTY I SHALL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT HIS KIND INVITATION. I SHALL ARRIVE AT HIS COURT AT MY EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

I BELIEVE HIS MAJESTY REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE PRESENCE.

OF COURSE. HOW SILLY OF ME.

IF YOU WILL ACCEPT OUR HOSPITALITY FOR THE NIGHT, I AND MY ASSISTANT HERE WILL BE MOST PLEASED TO ACCOMPANY YOU IN THE MORNING.

GRRRRR

ACTUALLY, I REALLY MUST BE GOING. I'LL TELL HIS MAJESTY YOU'LL BE FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND!

YOU'RE SURE YOU WOULDN'T LIKE TO *STAY*?

POSITIVE!

OH WELL, PERHAPS WE'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU ON THE ROAD.

ULP!

IN THAT CASE, *I'LL* WANT A HEAD START-- THAT IS, I'D BEST BE ON MY WAY TO ANNOUNCE YOUR COMING!

ZOW

EXCELLENT! A COURT MAGICIAN! WHAT A SOFT JOB! AND THE DAY STARTED OUT SO MISERABLY!

BIFF!

SWOOOOSH!

IF I CAN *INTERRUPT*, THERE'S ONE MINOR *FLAW* IN YOUR PLAN!

POOF!

HMMM? WHAT'S THAT?

I DON'T *WANT* TO BE A COURT MAGICIAN!

... AND CIVIL SERVANTS ARE THIEVES ON A GRANDER SCALE THAN YOU EVER *DREAMED POSSIBLE!*

YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE A *MAGICIAN*, EITHER! YOU WANTED TO BE A *THIEF!*

WELL, HERE'S A GOOD COMPROMISE FOR YOU. AS A COURT MAGICIAN, YOU'LL BE A *CIVIL SERVANT*...

ON THE ROAD TO POSSILTUM...

BA BA BOOO! HEY JUNIOR, CHECK OUT THE PERVERT!

IS THAT WHAT THAT WAS? GEE, I THOUGHT IT WAS VANNA WHITE WITHOUT HER MAKEUP!

NOW, LET ME SEE IF I'VE GOT THIS RIGHT...

...YOU'RE SAYING THEY PROBABLY *WON'T* HIRE ME ON THE BASIS OF MY ABILITIES?

THAT'S RIGHT, KID. NOW YOU'VE GOT IT.

NO, I DON'T. THAT'S THE *CRAZIEST* THING I'VE EVER HEARD!

I'M SORRY, AAHZ. BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

I'VE TAKEN A LOT OF THINGS YOU'VE TOLD ME ON FAITH, BUT THIS... THIS GOES AGAINST *COMMON SENSE!*

WHAT DOES COMMON SENSE HAVE TO DO WITH IT?

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A JOB INTERVIEW!

KEEP YOUR SCALES ON AAHZ! ALL IT TAKES IS A LITTLE *GENTLENESS*...

...YOU SHOULD TRY IT SOMETIME!

IF YOU'RE FINISHED WITH YOUR TEMPERAMENT LESSON, APPRENTICE, YOU MIGHT CALL YOUR DRAGON BACK...

POP!

...ALL WE NEED IS TO HAVE HIM STIRRING UP THE COUNTRY-SIDE!

GLEEP!

GLEEP! COME HERE, FELLA!

GLEEP!

COME HERE!

HEEL!

BAM

I STILL SAY WE SHOULD HAVE LEFT THAT STUPID DRAGON BACK AT THE INN!

PEW! WAD WERE YOU TAYING ABOUD JOB INDERDEWS?

PANT PANT PANT PANT PANT

PANT PANT PANT PANT

I *KNOW* IT SOUNDS RIDICULOUS, KID. AND IT *IS*. BUT A LOT OF THINGS ARE RIDICULOUS, *PARTICULARLY* IN *THIS* DIMENSION!

WELL, AAHZ, I'M TRAVELING TO A PLACE I'VE NEVER SEEN WITH A *DEMON*, AN OVERBURDENED *UNICORN*, AND *GLEEP* HERE! TRUST ME, I *KNOW* WHAT RIDICULOUS IS!

NOW, WHAT ABOUT THIS *COURT MAGICIAN* THING?

SEE IF THIS MAKES ANY SENSE. COURT MAGICIANS DON'T *DO* MUCH ... MAGICALLY, AT LEAST.

THEY'RE PRIMARILY KEPT AROUND FOR *SHOW*, AS A *STATUS SYMBOL* TO DEMONSTRATE A COURT IS ADVANCED ENOUGH TO RATE A MAGICIAN.

IT'S A RARE OCCASION WHEN THEY'RE CALLED TO *DO ANYTHING*. IF YOU WERE A *JESTER* THEY'D WORK YOUR TAIL OFF, BUT NOT AS A MAGICIAN.

REMEMBER MOST PEOPLE ARE SKITTISH ABOUT MAGIK, AND USE IT AS *SELDOM* AS POSSIBLE.

DUST DUST DUST

IT'S LIKE I TOLD YOU BEFORE, IT'S THIS DIMENSION'S *CUSHIEST* JOB!

HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

LOOK, KID, LIKE I SAID, A COURT MAGICIAN IS *WINDOW DRESSING*, A *SHOWPIECE*.

THEY'LL BE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO IS IMPRESSIVE WHETHER OR NOT HE EVER *DOES* ANYTHING. YOU'LL HAVE TO EXUDE *CONFIDENCE!*

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I'M QUALIFIED. I'LL MATCH MY ABILITY TO DO *NOTHING* AGAINST ANY MAGICIAN ON *KLAH!*

NO ARGUMENT THERE. BUT IT'S NOT QUITE THAT EASY.

TO HOLD THE JOB TAKES NEXT TO NO EFFORT ALL. *GETTING* THE JOB CAN BE AN *UPHILL STRUGGLE!*

NOW, TO GET THE JOB, YOU'LL HAVE TO IMPRESS THE KING AND PROBABLY HIS ADVISORS. YOU'LL HAVE TO IMPRESS THEM WITH *YOU*, NOT YOUR *ABILITIES*.

"MOST IMPORTANT, YOU'LL HAVE TO *LOOK* LIKE A *MAGICIAN*... OR AT LEAST, WHAT THEY THINK A MAGICIAN LOOKS LIKE.

"IF YOU CAN *DRESS* LIKE A *MAGICIAN*...

"...*TALK* LIKE A *MAGICIAN*...

MONOSODIUM GLUTAMATE!

ZING!

"...AND *ACT* LIKE A *MAGICIAN*...

... MAYBE NO ONE WILL NOTICE YOU DON'T HAVE THE *ABILITIES* OF A MAGICIAN!

THANKS, AAHZ. YOU'RE REALLY DOING WONDERS TOWARD BUILDING MY *CONFIDENCE*.

SWACK!

NOW, DON'T *SULK.*

YOU CAN *LEVITATE* REASONABLY LARGE OBJECTS, YOU CAN *FLY* AFTER A FASHION, AND YOU'VE GOT THE *DISGUISE* SPELL DOWN PAT.

YOU'RE DOING PRETTY WELL FOR A *RANK NOVICE*. BUT DON'T KID YOURSELF INTO BELIEVING YOU'RE ANYWHERE NEAR *FULL MAGICIAN'S* STATUS.

IF I'M SUCH A BUMBLING *INCOMPETENT*, WHY ARE WE ON OUR WAY TO ESTABLISH ME AS *COURT MAGICIAN*?

YOU AREN'T *LISTENING*, KID. HOLDING THE JOB ONCE YOU'VE GOT IT WILL BE A *BREEZE*. YOU CAN HANDLE THAT NOW. THE TRICKY PART WILL BE GETTING YOU *HIRED*.

FORTUNATELY, WITH A FEW MINOR *MODIFICATIONS*, AND A LITTLE *COACHING*, I THINK WE CAN GET YOU READY FOR POLITE SOCIETY.

MODIFICATIONS? SUCH AS *WHAT?*

FOR A START, THERE'S THE WAY YOU *DRESS*.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE WAY I DRESS?

NOTHING AT ALL -- THAT IS IF YOU WANT PEOPLE TO *THEE* YOU AS A BUMPKIN *PEATHANT* WITH *DUNG* ON HIS *BOOT-TH!*

OF COURSE, IF YOU WANT TO BE A COURT MAGICIAN, WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY. NO RESPECTABLE MAGICIAN WOULD BE CAUGHT *DEAD* IN AN OUTFIT LIKE THAT!

BUT, I *AM* A RESPECTABLE MAGICIAN!

REALLY? RESPECTED BY *WHOM?*

PAT! PAT!

THAT'S SPECIFICALLY THE REASON I HAD THE FORESIGHT TO BRING ALONG A FEW ITEMS FROM THE INN.

AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST *LOOTING* THE PLACE!

WATCH YOUR *MOUTH*, KID. THIS IS ALL FOR *YOUR* BENEFIT!

REALLY? YOU AREN'T EXPECTING *ANYTHING* AT ALL OUT OF THIS DEAL?

OH, I'LL BE AROUND. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT. PUBLICLY, I'LL BE YOUR *APPRENTICE!*

MY APPRENTICE?!

PUBLICLY, PRIVATELY, YOU'LL CONTINUE YOUR LESSONS AS NORMAL! REMEMBER THAT BEFORE YOU START GETTING FRISKY WITH YOUR "APPRENTICE"!

EEK!

OF COURSE, AAHZ. NOW, WHAT WAS IT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT CHANGING THE WAY I DRESS...

...NOT THAT THERE'S ANYTHING WRONG WITH ME THE WAY I AM!

?

EVERYTHING'S WRONG WITH THE WAY YOU DRESS!

POP!

WE'RE LUCKY THOSE TWO *IMPS* LEFT MOST OF THEIR WARDROBE BEHIND WHEN WE SENT'EM *PACKING* ALONG WITH *ISSTVAN.*

HIGGINS AND BROCKHURST?

YEAH, THOSE TWO. I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR *IMPS*, THEY MAY BE INFERIOR TO *DEVEELS* AS MERCHANTS, BUT THEY *ARE* SNAPPY DRESSERS!

I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ALL THAT STUFF YOU BUNDLED ALONG IS *WARDROBE.*

OF COURSE IT ISN'T. IT'S *SPECIAL EFFECTS* GEAR!

SPECIAL EFFECTS?

DON'T YOU REMEMBER *ANYTHING*, KID? I TOLD YOU ALL THIS WHEN WE FIRST MET.

HOWEVER EASY MAGIK *IS*, YOU CAN'T LET IT *LOOK* EASY.

YOU NEED A FEW *HAND PROPS*, A LINE OF *PATTER*, YOU KNOW, LIKE *GARKIN* HAD.

WE'VE GOT A LOT OF STUFF WE CAN WORK INTO YOUR PRESENTATION.

ISSTVAN LEFT A LOT OF JUNK BEHIND WHEN HE LEFT.

OH, AND YOU MIGHT FIND SOME *FAMILIAR* ITEMS WHEN WE UNLOAD. I THINK THE *IMPS* HELPED THEMSELVES TO SOME OF *GARKIN'S* EQUIPMENT AND BROUGHT IT BACK TO THE INN WITH THEM.

REALLY? DID THEY GET GARKIN'S *BRAZIER?*

YOU REMEMBER, YOU USED TO DRINK WINE OUT OF IT WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED.

THAT'S RIGHT! YEAH, I THINK I SAW IT IN THERE. *WHY?*

NO SPECIAL REASON. IT WAS ALWAYS A *FAVORITE* OF MINE, THAT'S ALL.

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT YOUR *PHYSICAL* APPEARANCE, TOO. YOU'RE TOO *YOUNG!* NOBODY HIRES A YOUNG MAGICIAN. THEY WANT ONE WHO'S BEEN AROUND FOR AWHILE. IF WE--

KID, YOUR DRAGON'S *GONE* AGAIN!

GLEEP!

RUSTLE RUSTLE

HERE BOY!

PLORNK

GLEEP!

STUPID DRAGON!

HE'S *CHEAP* TO FEED!

NEXT ISSUE: WE'RE OFF TO BE THE WIZARD!